

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #35**

Project Title: Extend Coghill Lake Adult Escapement Weir Operations

Investigator Organizations: USFS Chugach National Forest Glacier Ranger District, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division

Geographic Area: Cook Inlet/Gulf of Alaska

Information Type: Stock Status and Trends

Issue Addressed: Coghill Lake contains one of the largest coho runs in western Prince William Sound and is an important commercial, sport and subsistence fishery, yet we do not have knowledge of the escapement or run timing. Its close proximity to Whittier increases the likelihood of conflicts between users due to the Whittier road opening this year which is expected to increase use in Prince William Sound by over 600 percent. It is important to possess such knowledge before such conflicts occur. Residents from Whittier harvest coho with hook and line in the Coghill estuary and river for subsistence. This is also a popular sport fishery for fishermen from Anchorage. The river is within federal administrative boundaries.

Study Objectives:

1. Continue to operate adult weir from August through September to determine spawning escapement and run timing of coho salmon in Coghill Lake.
2. Determine the age, sex, and length composition of coho salmon at the weir site.
3. Daily in-season reporting of escapement data to state and federal management staff for use in the management of subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries.

Project Description: There is currently an adult weir managed by ADF&G that is used to monitor chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, however, it is decommissioned before coho enter the river. Because the weir is already operational, we could gain important additional information with minimal costs. Funding would be provided to ADF&G to continue operation of the adult weir through the coho migration period. The proposed project would be conducted over a three year period.

Consultations Completed/Potential for Capacity Building: This project will be completed under contract with ADF&G and PWSAC coordinated through Jay Johnson (ADF&G, Commercial Fisheries) . Although the village of Tatitlek does not harvest coho at Coghill, both Gary Kompkoff and Steve Totemoff of the Tatitlek IRA stated they support further investigations to determine run size of coho into the Coghill system. Pete Kompkoff of the Chenega IRA also support the project. Jim Fall (ADF&G, Subsistence) has been contacted and the project was presented at the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting on March 2nd .

Deliverables/Products: This project will provide daily counts of coho salmon entering Coghill River as well as estimates of age, length, and sex composition.

Costs: Project funding will be assessed annually and re-authorized by the USFS based on availability of funds and program needs.

Annual Budget Summary	USFS	Local Hires	ADF&G	Local Hires	Total
FY 2000	\$ 3.0 K	\$ 2.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$ 15.0 K	\$ 30.0 K
FY 2001	\$ 3.0 K	\$ 2.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$ 15.0 K	\$ 30.0 K
FY 2002	\$ 3.0 K	\$ 2.0 K	\$ 10.0 K	\$ 15.0 K	\$ 30.0 K
Total	\$ 9.0 K	\$ 6.0 K	\$ 30.0 K	\$ 45.0 K	\$ 90.0 K